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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

#83- 880

Executive Registry

83-1551

March 21, 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

The March 1983 edition of the Armed Forces Journal stated that the CIA "will no longer publish its dollar cost comparison of Soviet and U.S. defense activity, perhaps the most quoted work it has ever issued." The article goes on to say that you have also ordered the elimination of "the Agency's annual estimate of Soviet military and economic assistance to the Third World countries, and its reporting on the number of Soviet military and economic advisors overseas." Formerly, this information was published in a document titled Communist Aid Activities in Non-Communist Less Developed Countries.

On March 10, 1983, the Budget Subcommittee of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence held hearings on Analysis and Production. At this Subcommittee hearing, a number of our Members questioned the advisability of ceasing publication of these documents. In response to their questions, Mr. Gates, the Deputy Director for Intelligence, stated that "the decision was made two years ago to reduce the amount of unclassified analysis that the Central Intelligence Agency was producing..." but that "what has happened in the last few weeks will cause us to go back and revisit the question of whether or not we ought to publish this sort of thing on an unclassified basis." Later in the hearing, Mr. Gates indicated that the Agency would publish classified versions of these reports and was simply ceasing publications of the unclassified versions.

Bill, we believe that reports such as these are among the most influential and interesting that the CIA has made public in recent years. It concerns us that, when so few intelligence products are